

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-9, 13 and 17 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 10, 11, 14 and 15 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are now pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 10, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended to place each of those claims in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate approval of the substitute formal drawing sheet for Figure 7 filed with the reply on October 3, 2003, as well as the substitute formal drawing sheet for Figure 9 filed with the supplemental reply on December 3, 2003.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 13 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,230,189 to Saito et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,662 to Lo et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-9, 13 and 17-20, this rejection is now moot.

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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